

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 -19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): A planer, comprising:

- a base;
- a top frame connected to the base;
- a cutterhead movably supported relative to the base to define an adjustable opening therebetween for selective travel in a first direction toward the base and a second opposite direction; and
- a depth stop mechanism attached to the top frame and not extending into the adjustable opening, the depth stop mechanism having a depth stop member and selectively preventing travel of the cutterhead in the first direction beyond a pre-selected distance from the base when the depth stop member contacts an abutment portion of a ~~column-like~~column member attached to the base, while permitting travel of the cutterhead in the second direction.

Claim 21 (previously presented): A planer, comprising:

- a base;
- first and second support members attached to the base and movably supporting thereon a cutterhead for selective travel in a first direction toward the base and a second opposite direction;
- a top frame attached to at least the first support member; and
- a depth stop mechanism having a depth stop member, wherein the depth stop mechanism is attached to the top frame for selectively preventing travel of the cutterhead in the first direction beyond a pre-selected distance from the base when the depth stop member contacts an abutment surface on the first support member, while permitting travel of the cutterhead in the second direction.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The planer of claim 21 wherein the depth stop mechanism further comprises an adjustment assembly in the top frame, the adjustment assembly selectively adjusting a position of the depth stop member on the first support

member relative to the abutment surface wherein the depth stop member is rotatably supported on a first threaded portion of the first support member adjacent to the abutment surface thereof.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The planer of claim 22 wherein the depth stop member comprises a depth stop nut threadedly received on the first threaded portion of the first support member and wherein the first support member is rotatable.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The planer of claim 23 wherein the adjustment assembly comprises a sleeve rotatably supported within the top frame and slidably and non-rotatably supporting the depth stop nut therein such that rotation of the sleeve rotates the depth stop nut on the first threaded portion of the first support member.

Claim 25 (original): The planer of claim 24 further comprising a sleeve locking mechanism for selectively preventing rotation of the sleeve relative to the top frame.

Claim 26 (original): The planer of claim 25 wherein the first support member defines an axis of rotation about which the sleeve may rotate and wherein the sleeve locking mechanism comprises:

a bushing attached to the sleeve such that rotation of the bushing rotates the sleeve about the axis of rotation, the bushing having at least a portion with a non-circular exterior, the non-circular exterior of the bushing selectively receivable in a bore within the top frame that is shaped to define a plurality of positions about the axis of rotation in which the bushing may be retained when the non-circular exterior of the bushing is received therein; and

a knob attached to the first support member for selective rotation of the first support member relative to the bushing, the knob being selectively engageable with the bushing for rotating the sleeve about the axis of rotation.

Claim 27 (original): The planer of claim 26 wherein the bushing is integral with the sleeve.

Claim 28 (original): The planer of claim 26 wherein the knob includes a plurality of posts corresponding to a plurality of ramps on the bushing for selectively locking the sleeve in a non-rotatable position.

Claim 29 (original): The planer of claim 28 further comprising a biaser for biasing the knob to a disengaged position.

Claim 30 (original): The planer of claim 21 further comprising a retractable measuring device having a first end retractably affixed to the top frame and a second end affixed to the cutterhead.

Claim 31 (currently amended): The planer of claim-2324, wherein the depth stop nut is at a bottom end of the sleeve and abuts the abutment surface on the first support member when the cutterhead reaches a predetermined distance away from the base when the sleeve is in ~~the~~an engaged position.

Claim 32 (original): The planer of claim 26, wherein the sleeve is locked in the engaged position when the knob is biased toward the top frame and rotated such that the posts travel up the ramps and are received in corresponding slots in the ramps.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The planer of claim 21, wherein the first support member is linked to the second support member such that rotation of the first support member causes substantially identical rotation of the second support member such that the cutterhead remains substantially parallel to the base during height adjustment.

Claim 34 (original): The planer of claim 33, wherein the first support member is linked to the second support member by an endless chain received on sprockets on the first support member and the second support member.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The planer of claim 23, wherein the depth stop nut travels on the first threaded portion of the first support member having a first pitch and

the cutterhead travels on a second threaded portion of the first support member having a second pitch.

Claim 36 (original): The planer of claim 35, wherein the ratio of the first pitch to the second pitch is about 2.5.

Claim 37 (currently amended): A material removal device, comprising:

- a base;
- frame means connected to the base and having a top portion;
- means for removing material from a workpiece when positioned on the base;
- means for adjusting a location of the means for removing relative to the base, such that upon rotation of the means for adjusting in a first direction, the means for removing moves towards the base and upon rotation of the means for adjusting in a second direction, the means for removing moves away from the base; and
- means attached to the top portion of the frame means for selectively stopping the means for removing from moving beyond a predetermined distance toward the base while permitting the means for removing to move away from the base, wherein the means for selectively stopping has a depth stop means for preventing the means for removing to move beyond the predetermined distance when the depth stop means abuts at least one ~~column-like~~column member supported on the base.

Claim 38 (currently amended): The material removal device of claim 37 wherein the means for adjusting comprises a first rotatable ~~column-like~~column member and a second rotatable ~~column-like~~column member supported on the base and coupled to the means for removing.

Claim 39 (currently amended): The material removal device of claim 38 wherein the depth stop means is positioned on a portion of the first rotatable ~~column-like~~column member and selectively rotatable thereon for selective abutment with a shoulder on the first rotatable ~~column-like~~column member such that when the depth stop means is in abutting relationship to the shoulder, the removing means cannot move toward the base and wherein a depth stop adjustment means is supported in the top portion of the frame

means for adjusting the position of the depth stop means on the first rotatable ~~column-~~
~~like~~column member.

Claim 40 (previously presented): The material removal device of claim 39, further comprising means for indicating when the means for removing contacts a workpiece on the base.

Claim 41 (previously presented): The material removal device of claim 39, further comprising means for indicating a distance at which the means for removing is located from the base.

Claim 42 - 51 (cancelled)

Claim 52 (currently amended): The planer of claim 20, wherein the ~~column-like~~column member defines a central axis extending normal to the base and along which the depth stop member travels toward the abutment portion.

Claim 53 (previously presented): The planer of claim 52, wherein the depth stop mechanism does not provide more than one abutment portion.

Claim 54 (currently amended): A planar comprising:

- a base;

- a top frame connected to the base;

- a cutterhead movably supported relative to the base for selective travel in a first direction toward the base and a second direction away from the base; and

- a depth stop mechanism having a rotatable depth stop member coupled to the cutterhead, the depth stop member oriented for contact with a ~~column-like~~column member attached to the base when the cutterhead travels in the first direction to prevent further travel of the cutterhead beyond a pre-selected distance in the first direction while not preventing travel in the second direction.

Claim 55 (currently amended): The planer of claim 54, wherein the ~~column-like~~column member defines a central axis extending normal to the base and along which the rotatable depth stop member abuts the ~~column-like~~column member.

Claim 56 (currently amended): The planer of claim 54, wherein the ~~column-like~~column member is rod shaped.

Claim 57 (previously presented): The planer of claim 54, wherein the rotatable depth stop member is capable of adjustment to select a distance from the base the cutterhead will be prevented from traveling in the first direction.

Claim 58 (previously presented): A planer, comprising:

- a base;

- first and second support members attached to the base and movably supporting thereon a cutterhead for selective travel in a first direction toward the base and a second opposite direction;

- a top frame attached to at least the first support member; and

- a depth stop mechanism attached to the top frame for selectively preventing travel of the cutterhead in the first direction beyond a pre-selected distance from the base, wherein the depth stop mechanism comprises;

 - an abutment surface on the first support member;

 - a depth stop member rotatably supported on a first threaded portion of the first support member adjacent to the abutment surface thereof, the depth stop member slidably supported in the top frame and further comprising a depth stop nut threadedly received on the first threaded portion of the first support member and wherein the first support member is rotatable; and

 - an adjustment assembly in the top frame, the adjustment assembly selectively adjusting a position of the depth stop member on the first support member relative to the abutment surface.

Claim 59 (previously presented): The planer of claim 58 wherein the adjustment assembly comprises a sleeve rotatably supported within the top frame and slidably and

non-rotatably supporting the depth stop nut therein such that rotation of the sleeve rotates the depth stop nut on the first threaded portion of the first support member.

Claim 60 (previously presented): The planer of claim 59 further comprising a sleeve locking mechanism for selectively preventing rotation of the sleeve relative to the top frame.

Claim 61 (previously presented): The planer of claim 60 wherein the first support member defines an axis of rotation about which the sleeve may rotate and wherein the sleeve locking mechanism comprises:

a bushing attached to the sleeve such that rotation of the bushing rotates the sleeve about the axis of rotation, the bushing having at least a portion with a non-circular exterior, the non-circular exterior of the bushing selectively receivable in a bore within the top frame that is shaped to define a plurality of positions about the axis of rotation in which the bushing may be retained when the non-circular exterior of the bushing is received therein; and

a knob attached to the first support member for selective rotation of the first support member relative to the bushing, the knob being selectively engageable with the bushing for rotating the sleeve about the axis of rotation.

Claim 62 (previously presented): The planer of claim 61 wherein the bushing is integral with the sleeve.

Claim 63 (previously presented): The planer of claim 61 wherein the knob includes a plurality of posts corresponding to a plurality of ramps on the bushing for selectively locking the sleeve in a non-rotatable position.

Claim 64 (previously presented): The planer of claim 63 further comprising a biaser for biasing the knob to a disengaged position.

Claim 65 (currently amended): The planer of claim ~~58~~59, wherein the depth stop nut is at a bottom end of the sleeve and abuts the abutment surface on the first support

member when the cutterhead reaches a predetermined distance away from the base
when the sleeve is in ~~the~~ an engaged position.

Claim 66 (previously presented): The planer of claim 61, wherein the sleeve is locked in the engaged position when the knob is biased toward the top frame and rotated such that the posts travel up the ramps and are received in corresponding slots in the ramps.

Claim 67 (previously presented): The planer of claim 58, wherein the depth stop nut travels on the first threaded portion of the first support member having a first pitch and the cutterhead travels on a second threaded portion of the first support member having a second pitch.

Claim 68 (previously presented): The planer of claim 67, wherein the ratio of the first pitch to the second pitch is about 2.5.

Claim 69 - 75 (cancelled)